AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting an article identification tag ~~(30)~~ having at least one electrically conductive member ~~(31-3n)~~, wherein, for each of said at least one member ~~(31-3n)~~, an alternating electric current is caused to flow through said member, a frequency of the alternating electric current is varied, and a corresponding variation in impedance of said member is monitored, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the steps of

detecting a discontinuity in said variation in impedance; and

detecting the frequency of the alternating electric current [[,]] at which ~~frequency~~ said discontinuity appears.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to clam 1, wherein each of said at least one electrically conductive ~~member (31-3n)~~ members has one of a predetermined diameter, a predetermined electrical resistivity or a predetermined magnetic permeability, and wherein said predetermined diameter, resistivity or permeability is mapped to information about an identity of the tag ~~(30)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the alternating electric current is induced in said at least one electrically conductive member ~~(31-3n)~~ by exposing the tag to an alternating electromagnetic field.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER L.L.P.

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the alternating electrical current is induced in said at least one electrically conductive member ~~(31-3n)~~ by exposing the tag ~~(30)~~ to a magnetic field.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one electrically conductive member ~~(31-3n)~~ is an elongated metallic member having the form of a wire, strip or ribbon.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 5, wherein the elongated magnetic member ~~(31-3n)~~ comprises a non-magnetic metal, preferably copper or ~~aluminium~~ aluminum.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the elongated metallic member comprises a magnetic material, preferably iron, steel or an amorphous metal alloy.

8. (Currently Amended) An article identification tag ~~(30)~~ comprising a plurality of electrically conductive members ~~(31-3n)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the electrically conductive members ~~(31-3n)~~ has a unique predetermined diameter.

9. (Currently Amended) A tag as in claim 8, wherein the electrically conductive members ~~(31-3n)~~ are formed as metallic wires, strips or ribbons.

10. (Currently Amended) A tag as in claim 9, wherein the metallic wires,

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

strips or ribbons ~~(31-3n)~~ comprise a non-magnetic metal, preferably copper or ~~aluminium~~ aluminum.

11. (Original) A tag as in claim 9, wherein the metallic wires, strips or ribbons comprise a magnetic material, preferably iron, steel or an amorphous metal alloy.

12. (Currently Amended) A tag as in any of claims 8 to 11, wherein at least some of the electrically conductive members ~~(35, 36)~~ have galvanic contact with each other.

13. (Currently Amended) A tag as in ~~any of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8, wherein the electrically conductive members ~~(34)~~ are formed by an elongated element having sections of different diameters.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Attachment: Certified Copy of Swedish Patent Application No. 9900119-0, filed January 18, 1999.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER L.L.P.

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com